Embassy of the United States, Addis Ababa



Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

U.S. Ambassador Donald Booth Presents Credentials to Ethiopian President

United States Ambassador to Ethiopia Donald Booth presented his credentials to President Girma Wolde-Giorgis on May 3, 2010 at the Presidential Palace. Ambassador Booth, who was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on March 10, arrived in Ethiopia on April 21. Ambassador Booth told President Girma that the United States considers Ethiopia to be an important partner and pledged to strengthen and expand the U.S.-Ethiopian partnership during his tenure as Ambassa-



Ambassador Donald Booth

Ambassador Booth noted that the United States is interested in establishing a constructive dialogue with the Ethiopian government on a broad range of issues, including economic growth and development, governance and human rights, and peace and security.

Ambassador Booth's biography:

Donald E. Booth was confirmed by the United States
Senate on March 10, 2010
and attested by President
Barack Obama on March 11,
2010 as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE

Volume 13, Issue 16 May 06, 2010

AFRICAN ISSUES

Entrepreneurship, Infrastructure Vital to Africa's Development (P 3)

Infrastructure Transformation in Africa an Urgent Priority (P 5)

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

AllAfrica Founder Cites Explosion of Independent Media in Africa (P 6)

Report Finds Press Freedoms Declining Worldwide (P 7)

Online Journalists Increasingly Risk Censorship, Imprisonment (P 8)

Obama Calls Arizona Immigration Law "Poorly Conceived" (P 9)

PEACE AND SECURITY

New U.S. Support for Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones and Energy Use (P 11)

U.S. Charges 11 Somalis with Maritime Piracy (P 12)

BUSINESS AND TRADE

Clinton To Entrepreneurs: Build Up Your Societies (P 13)

Clinton Outlines Steps to Support Opportunities for Women (P 14)

Business Owners from 50 Countries Connect in Washington (P 15)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

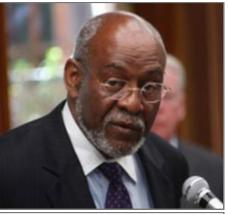
U.S. Dancers Are a Hit in Africa (P 16)

A Nation Mourns Human Rights Champion Dorothy Height (P 18)

State's Carson Says U.S., Africa Partnering on Infrastructure

By Charles W. Corey Staff Writer

Washington — Although the infrastructure problems facing Africa look "daunting," they are "not insurmountable," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson said April 28, adding that infrastructure needs can be addressed by public and private partners



Assistant Secretary of State for African
Affairs Johnnie Carson.

worldwide.

Speaking to the fourth annual Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) U.S.-Africa Infrastructure Conference in Washington, Carson said, "Africa ... cannot hope to close its development gap or to achieve middle-income status without addressing infrastructure as a fundamental

(Continued on page 2)

U.S. Ambassador Donald Booth Presents Credentials . . .

(Continued from page 1)

America to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Prior to this appointment, Ambassador Booth, a member of the Senior Foreign Service, most recently served as Ambassador to the Republic of Zambia.

Ambassador Booth previously served as Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia from 2005-2008. Prior to that, he was Director of the Office of Technical and Specialized Agencies at the De-

partment of State's Bureau of International Organization Affairs. Ambassador Booth has also served as Director of the Office of West African Affairs, Deputy Director of the Office of Southern African Affairs, Economic Counselor in Athens, and Division Chief for Bilateral Trade Affairs at the Department of State. He has attended the National War College and served as a desk officer in the Office of Egyptian Affairs and the Office of East African Affairs. Ambassador Booth was also stationed at embassies in Bucharest,

Brussels and Libreville.

Ambassador Booth earned a bachelor's degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, a master's degree in Business Administration from Boston University and a master's degree in National Security Studies from the National War College. He is married to Anita S. Booth. They have three children.

State's Carson Says U.S., Africa Partnering on Infrastructure . . .

(Continued from page 1)

impediment to trade, investment and growth. Poor road, rail and harbor infrastructure adds 30 to 40 percent to the cost of goods traded among African countries."

As an example, Carson cited a recent report (http://www.unis.unvienna.org/pdf/MDG_Africa_infrastructure.pdf) (PDF, 285KB) estimating that transportation inefficiencies amount to an export tax of 80 percent on Ugandan textiles, making it difficult for Ugandan businessmen to compete on the global market.

He added that deficits in telecommunications, electricity and water also present serious challenges to both domestic and overseas investors.

Carson said American companies clearly are interested in investing in Africa, but "when faced with the realities of doing business in many African countries, they ultimately decide to invest elsewhere."

Infrastructure is only one piece of the overall investment climate picture, he

added. "High customs fees, corruption, the absence of reliable legal systems, and burdensome regulatory environments ... can discourage potential investors" as well.

"Doing business requires partners," he said, "good, reliable and predictable partners" and in that regard, both African governments and American companies have responsibilities.

African governments must create a welcoming climate for investors and create a level playing field where businesses can run their operations efficiently without interference. American companies, for their part, must seek a greater understanding of the local markets and conditions. They should also make use of the services offered by the United States government, he added.

"To achieve strong economic growth in Africa, it is critical that we combine and pool our efforts to address the infrastructure deficit that is on the continent. The United States government," he said, "is trying to do its part" having invested millions of dollars in new infrastructure

projects through the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) in several African countries.

In Cape Verde alone, he said, the United States is providing more than \$70 million for road and bridge investments that are helping improve transportation links to the port city of Praia. Airport construction there also has been assisted by the United States government, he said.

In Lesotho, the United States is providing more than \$164 million to support efforts to clean up the country's water supply. "These projects are important," he said, but cautioned that "they are really just a small drop in the bucket."

Africa still needs billions of dollars for infrastructure development, and funding at that level, he said, can be generated only through public-private partnerships that bring international financial institutions, donors and the private sector together.

Carson saluted the CCA conference, which has as one of its themes "Building

(Continued on page 4)

Page 2 Weekly Special Report

Entrepreneurship, Infrastructure Vital to Africa's Development

By Charles W. Corey Staff Writer

Washington — Just minutes after U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton officially closed the Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship (http://www.america.gov/entrepreneurship_summit.html), the fourth annual U.S.-Africa Infrastructure Conference opened nearby on April 27.

Many of the 25 African entrepreneurs from 10 African countries who attended the entrepreneurship summit stayed on to attend the infrastructure conference sponsored by the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA).

At the opening reception, CCA President and Chief Executive Officer Stephen Hayes told America.gov that infrastructure is Africa's biggest need, and that entrepreneurs are "absolutely vital" to Africa's economic development and growth. "I think the entrepreneurship summit was something that was badly needed in terms of the emphasis it puts on entrepreneurs — there is probably not another thing more needed in Africa."

Mima S. Nedelcovych, managing director of professional services company Schaffer Global Group and a former U.S. representative to the African Development Bank, agreed, telling America.gov that entrepreneurs are "absolutely critical" to business.

Nedelcovych, who has worked much of his career in the U.S.-Africa business environment, called entrepreneurs "the people who make things happen."

"Today," he said, "you have the secondand third-generation children of traders who made money in transactions and who are now schooled, saying 'We really need to move things into proper business and industry'" formats. Entrepreneurs need the right conditions — and predictable conditions — to flourish, he said. "If you only know the rules of the game are going to be good for a year or two, of course you are only going

The first state of the first sta

Charity Mwende stands before the Miugo Shop, in Nairobi, Kenya.

to do transactions and trading. You are not going to take a seven-year or 10-year loan to put up a factory. You have got to know that you have a steady environment that won't disappear on you." Entrepreneurs need assurances that their investments will be protected well into the future, he said.

Anthony Carroll, managing director of the Washington-based international business advisory company Manchester Trade Ltd., said Africa needs more midlevel entrepreneurs.

"I think where Africa has been constrained over the years is the missing middle of entrepreneurship. Those companies are made up of entrepreneurs who are above the microenterprise level but below the large level. Historically, in our economy and in other developed economies, the real engines for growth are those middle levels. ... Those are the

people we really want to reach out to. Those are the people who are going to be the engines of their economies" because they can create jobs and wealth, move economies forward, and be champions of good governance and transparency.

Kevin R. Boyd, director of the Africa program at the U.S. Department of Commerce, said President Obama's entrepreneurship summit was critical because "while you can have governments creating the groundwork for entrepreneurship and economic growth, the key to it is to have the private sector doing things."

When you look at job numbers, he said, it is often entrepreneurs who actually create jobs and stimulate economic growth across the continent.

Sola Adegbola, group managing director H.S. Petroleum Ltd. of Nigeria, said the entrepreneurship summit was an opportunity for American and African businesses and entrepreneurs to network — to see what opportunities are available. Africa, he said, is a "virgin economy" not only for foreign investors but for African entrepreneurs as well.

Entrepreneurs "are everything in Africa," he said, because apart from entrepreneurs and businesses in Africa, all you have is governments. The rise of a new middle class is essential for Africa's continued entrepreneur-sparked growth and development, he added.

(Continued on page 4)

Page 3 Weekly Special Report

State's Carson Says U.S., Africa Partnering on Infrastructure . . .

(Continued from page 2)

Dynamic Growth in Africa," a policy objective "which we in Washington support and a policy objective that is absolutely essential if Africa is to move forward and to take its rightful place as one of the world's great economies."

As the world moves into the second decade of the 21st century, he said, "Africa stands out as the world's last, great emerging market with 1 billion people spread across 53 nations in an area that is two times the size of the United States. Africa's great potential and enormous promise are as vast as the continent is itself," with reserves of oil and gas, uranium, diamonds, platinum, gold, manganese and iron, to mention just a few. The continent is also blessed with large pockets of arable land, major forests and vast water resources, he said.

"Combined with Africa's enormous po-

tential and capital, the ingredients and mixtures for Africa's success are there."

Carson saluted those African governments that have made wise economic and policy decisions over the past decade and used their wealth to turn their economies around "to slowly steer their countries out of the grip of poverty." But, he added, four decades of poor economic decisionmaking by many African governments is still hampering the continent's progress.

Despite the global economic crisis, Africa as a whole, has still been able to achieve an annual economic growth rate of 6 percent, he told his audience.

"I remain optimistic about Africa's future," Carson said. "I believe in Africa's people. I believe in their promise. I believe in their commitment to open their markets, liberalize their economies and seek out foreign investment and business that will help their economies grow. Together... we can begin to realize the continent's enormous and innate potential."

Carson also announced that the 2010 African Growth and Opportunity (AGOA) Forum, scheduled for the first week of August, will hold its plenary session in Washington, but will add a second segment in Kansas City, Missouri, to help African and U.S. businesses link up in a real business environment, especially in the area of agriculture.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: http://www.america.gov) ◆

Entrepreneurship, Infrastructure Vital to Africa's Development . . .

(Continued from page 3)

One of the 25 African entrepreneurs who participated in the summit and attended the reception was Papa Yusupha Njie (http://www.america.gov/st/businessenglish/2010/

April/20100402184605cpataruk0.968883 7.html), chief executive officer of information and communications technology company Unique Solutions in The Gambia. Njie said the summit provided an opportunity for him to reconnect with banking colleagues he had known in the past, and that he expected to remain in

touch and do business with them.

Unique Solutions is a wireless Internet provider developing a network for banks in Gambia. "Right now, we are building a platform for the central bank to allow real-time settlement and also partnering" with Nigeria to allow electronic payments in our part of the world, point of sales and [automated teller machine] cards."

"I have always said entrepreneurship is not a destination; it is a journey. Coming to this summit has allowed me the chance to meet others on a similar journey," he said.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: http://www.america.gov) ◆

Page 4 Weekly Special Report

Infrastructure Transformation in Africa an Urgent Priority

By Charles W. Corey Staff Writer

Washington — Now is the time for transformation of Africa's infrastructure, and African leaders understand the importance of that task, a senior World Bank official told the fourth annual U.S.-Africa Infrastructure Conference April 28.

Addressing a packed ballroom in Washington on the first day of the three-day conference, which is sponsored by the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA), Katherine Sierra, the World Bank's vice president for sustainable development, said it was in 2005 at the Group of Eight industrialized nations summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, that world leaders pointed to Africa's infrastructure as a key factor in determining the pace of sustained economic growth and development on the continent.

Sierra said that, in response, the World Bank and other groups put together the Africa Infrastructure Diagnostic – a set of data to determine the status of Africa's infrastructure. Data were collected for 24 countries, and now the study is expanding to include some 40 more countries, she said.

"We all know that Africa's infrastructure is sparse," Sierra said. "We should also recognize that it is extremely expensive compared to other regions of the world."

Sierra said the costs of infrastructure services in sub-Saharan Africa are at least double those in South Asia, and in some areas are five times higher. She attributed this disparity to a lack of large-scale economies, the high costs of electric power, and a lack of competition.

"Thin markets in Africa are often characterized by monopolies or cartels leading to high profit margins for a limited number of service providers, inefficiencies and therefore high prices. So we need to

tackle more economies of scale issues and introduce more competition," she said.

In looking at data on water resources, electrical power, transportation, and

Saharan Africa with its 48 countries and population of 800 million is not more than Spain, with a population of 40 million." Guinea-Bissau, for example, has the ability to generate only a small amount of electric power — the same



Two men pull water from a well to supply camels and cattle with water September 3, 2003, outside Wajir in northeastern Kenya.

telecommunications, Sierra said water resource management and hydropower issues are complicated by Africa's geography. Africa has 20 countries with populations of less than 5 million, another 20-plus countries with a gross domestic product of less than \$5 billion, and 60 international river basins that are shared several countries. The focus, she said, should be on regional solutions.

Each infrastructure sector in Africa has a different story to tell, according to Sierra. The power sector is in a crisis situation: "We have 30 countries facing chronic blackouts," she said. As a result, businesses are giving up in some cases on public- and private-sector solutions, and resorting to expensive individual options.

To put this in perspective, she said, "the entire capacity for electric power in sub-

amount of power it takes to electrify the World Bank complex in Washington, she said.

Only one-fifth of Africa's population has access to electricity or modern forms of energy, compared to one-half of the population in South Asia and four-fifths in Latin America, she said. Even by 2050, universal access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa will not happen — a situation that she called "totally unacceptable"

While there are potential African geothermal and hydropower resources, they would require large private-sector investment because they are often far away from the region's population centers and require outlays for transmission lines from the countryside into the cities.

(Continued on page 10)

Page 5 Weekly Special Report

AllAfrica Founder Cites Explosion of Independent Media in Africa

By Jim Fisher-Thompson Staff Writer

Washington — Africa's independent media is becoming a driving force for greater political and economic openness, with mobile phones potentially playing an important role in the process, says Reed Kramer, founder and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Africa News Service.

Despite assassinations and political repression that resulted in the deaths of 160 journalists in Africa during the past two decades, Kramer said, "The good news is that we see an explosion of private media on the continent ... that includes a huge expansion in cellular" mobile phone use that could be harnessed to access news from the Internet.

Kramer whose website, allAfrica.com, has become the world's largest provider of African news, discussed "Supporting Independent Media in Africa" on an April 29 panel sponsored by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and the Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA), two nongovernmental organizations that operate governance and media-assistance programs in Africa.

The discussion took place the week before World Press Freedom Day May 3, an annual event sponsored by the United Nations to raise awareness of the importance of freedom of information and expression.

Since media is a prime promoter of democracy and a "cornerstone of economic progress," Kramer told his audience, "Whatever can be done to make it more competent, professional and stable makes a vital contribution to Africa's future."

At allAfrica.com, he said, "We use nextgeneration [information] technology to pull, tag, index, deliver and archive large



Reed Kramer and Eric Chinje speak at a CIMA/NED panel on supporting media in Africa.

amounts of content. Through revenuesharing arrangements we are also generating resources needed to bolster media performance in Africa." The end result is a better spotlight on political transparency, health and educational concerns as well as environmental protection and good governance.

Kramer said, "Most countries in Africa with reasonably strong economies now have a variety of publications available ... and there are at least about 250 dailies across the continent today." However, he added, where political openness and stability lag, the media still suffers and journalists still face death and imprisonment.

On the positive side, television is growing and newspapers are getting stronger, he said, with dozens of daily papers now operating in Senegal and Nigeria. At the same time, Africa has the "world's fastest growing rate of both mobile phone subscribers and Internet users, and that has a lot of implications" for newsgathering and readership in the future.

Many websites now provide content specially formatted for "smart" mobile phones with Web browsers. The relative low cost of mobile phones versus computers in Africa suggests that the "mobile Web" could someday provide the majority of information access across the continent.

But for the time being, Kramer noted, most phones in Africa cannot yet access the Web, though they remain the principal device for communications. "What we're doing is trying to figure out how to effectively deliver information via SMS text messaging and we're trying to get some technology partners to make that happen as quickly as possible."

Eric Chinje, who runs the global media program at the World Bank Institute and who participated on the panel with Kramer, told America.gov that "mobiles are of critical importance" to democracy promotion in Africa. "But we've got to figure out how to leverage the technology so it fits a more holistic approach to the work of media.



AllAfrica's Tami Hultman and Reed Kramer with Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete in Dar es Salaam in 2009.

"There a number initiatives involving mobiles that we're looking at," Chinje said. "For example, we're talking to ICFJ [International Center for Journalists] about the citizen journalists program" to develop a network of citizen reporters who could use mobiles to phone in or do text SMS (short messaging service) reports for media outlets.

Chinje said that while the digital revolution in broadband and mobile phones offered opportunities for media development, new investments and new business models were needed. And a contributor to thinking along those lines is the African Media Initiative (AMI), on

(Continued on page 17)

Page 6 Weekly Special Report

Report Finds Press Freedoms Declining Worldwide

By Jane Morse Staff Writer

Washington — Freedom of the press declined in almost every region of the world in 2009, according to a study released April 29 by Freedom House, an international nongovernmental organization that researches and monitors democratic freedoms around the world.

The report, Freedom of the Press 2010: A Global Survey of Media Independence (http://freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=533), found that press freedom declined for the eighth consecutive year, and only one in six people lives in a country with genuinely free media.

According to Freedom House, the improvement in press freedom following the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of communism in 1989 has stalled, and in some cases reversed in the last 10 years. At the same time, there has been a dramatic expansion of online media as well as cable and satellite television. With the plethora of communication possibilities, total control over news and information has become more difficult a situation many repressive regimes are working hard to overcome. Freedom House found that 2009 was notable for intensified efforts by authoritarian regimes to place restrictions on all conduits for news and information.

The Internet and new media have become the new battlegrounds for government control. Repressive governments are attempting to restrict Internet freedom with lawsuits, direct censorship, content manipulation and physical harassment of bloggers, the report says. The Chinese government, especially, has introduced several new methods of Internet censorship and has remained "a global leader in the jailing of journalists," according to the Freedom House report.

Unpunished attacks against journalists encourage more violence against journalists in countries where there is weak rule of law, inadequate judicial institutions and a lack of political will to uphold free media, the report says. Governments remain unwilling to reform or eliminate laws used to punish journalists for reasons such as "inciting hatred," commenting on "sensitive topics," "blasphemy" or "endangering national security," Freedom House says. Political upheaval makes journalists prime targets for restrictions and threats from both sides of a conflict, according to the study.

The globalization of censorship represents a growing threat to freedoms of expression and the press, Freedom House says. "Libel tourism," in which plaintiffs shop around for jurisdictions in which they can count on favorable outcomes, has become a serious problem in some areas of the world. For example, foreign business magnates, princes and other powerful individuals have "increasingly turned to the British court system to quash critical research or commentary," according to the Freedom House study.

Looking at the world's regions, Freedom House found that only 48 percent of the countries in the Americas could be rated as having a completely free media. Cuba and Venezuela were deemed to have "not free" media environments.

The Asia-Pacific region was the one bright spot found by the study, even though the region is home to well-known, media-repressing regimes such as North Korea and Burma. Only 12 countries and territories are rated as "not free," according to Freedom House. The Asia-Pacific region as a whole exhibited "a relatively high level of press freedom," the study says. A drop in physical attacks and harassment has led to less

self-censorship by the media in countries such as Indonesia.

Central and Eastern Europe, along with the countries of the former Soviet Union, underwent modest decline or no change. Russia remained among the world's more repressive and dangerous media environments. Kyrgyzstan's media freedom score fell; but Ukraine, Armenia and Moldova showed slight improvement.

In the Middle East, Iran showed the region's biggest decline of the year due to the suppression of journalists in the wake of the June 2009 presidential election. Iraq saw some improvement for free media as political bias declined and attacks on journalists decreased, the study says.

In Africa, Freedom House found significant declines in the level of press freedom. For the first time since 1990, no county in southern Africa was scored as "free." In a surprising status change, South Africa and Namibia both dropped from "free" to "partly free" countries. Freedom House cited slight improvements, however, in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Sudan and Mauritania.

Freedom House's rankings for countries in Western Europe remained fairly stable. But, the report says, "the United Kingdom remains a concern due to its expansive libel laws."

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: http://www.america.gov) ◆

Page 7 Weekly Special Report

Online Journalists Increasingly Risk Censorship, Imprisonment

By Jane Morse Staff Writer

Washington — For the first time, the number of online journalists in prison almost surpasses the number of jailed traditional print and broadcast journalists, according to the Center for International Media Assistance (http://cima.ned.org/) (CIMA), an initiative of the National Endowment for Democracy, a private, nonprofit foundation dedicated to strengthening democratic institutions around the world.

In a special event on Capitol Hill April 27 in honor of World Press Freedom Day (http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=29293&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&UR L_SECTION=201.html) on May 3, CIMA, with the support of the U.S. Congressional Caucus for the Freedom of the Press, hosted a morning-long panel discussion entitled "Bloggers Behind Bars."

"The battle for press freedom has moved online," said Robert Mahoney (http://www.cpj.org/about/staff.php), an experienced international journalist and deputy director of the Committee to Protect Journalists (http://www.cpj.org/) (CPJ). In its 2009 prison census, CPJ found that at least 68 bloggers, Webbased reporters, and online editors are under arrest worldwide, constituting about half of all journalists now in jail, he said.

Online journalists are especially vulnerable to persecution, Mahoney said, because most of them are independent freelance writers without the protection of an established media company that would have the legal resources and political connections to keep them out — or get them out — of prison. Bloggers without a high profile on the international stage are especially vulnerable to intimidation, abduction and worse, he said.

And it's not just repressive governments



Blogger Omid Memarian has spent time in Iranian prisons for his work.

that are hunting down online journalists, Mahoney said. Powerful gangs seek to silence bloggers who dare to expose the illegal activities of criminal organizations, he said.

Repressive regimes can halt the use of the Internet more easily than they can close down news organizations, according to Mahoney. Filtering systems, firewalls and pressure on service providers are their tools for suppressing free speech, he said, adding that Internet service providers have little motivation to protect online journalists.

The tactics for silencing online journalists differ by country, said Robert Faris (http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/people/rfaris), the research director for the Berkman Center for Internet and Society (http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/about) at Harvard University. Internet filtering is especially prevalent in Syria, for example, while Egypt doesn't attempt to block the Internet but does go after the online journalists themselves, he said.

Faris said that repressive governments are becoming more sophisticated in using the Internet to suppress free speech. And for every blogger they put in jail, a real — but undocumented — "chilling effect" is put on other bloggers, he said. Even so, bloggers in general have succeeded in expanding accepted political

discussion not tackled by traditional media outlets, Faris said.

According to Tienchi Martin-Kiao, the president of the Independent Chinese PEN Center (http:// www.chinesepen.org/English/AboutUs/ AboutUs/200802/english 21410.html), a nonprofit organization supporting journalism freedom in China, the Chinese government has developed a sophisticated filtering system designed to flag words it finds inflammatory. Nonetheless, Chinese bloggers and their readers, she said, have gotten around censorship by developing their own language — a sort of "electronic vocabulary" used to criticize the government while evading the "Internet police." But it's a "cat-andmouse" game, Martin-Kiao acknowledged, and the Chinese government can often make blog entries not to its liking disappear within minutes of their post-

Omid Memarian (http:// omidmemarian.com/), an Iranian journalist and blogger who in 2004 spent time in prison (http:// www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/ content/article/2005/11/10/ AR2005111002106.html) for his work, said many former Iranian officials have turned to blogging to criticize the current government. "The more people who have access to the Internet and [free] discourse, the more they can pressure the government" for change, he said. Memarian emphasized that activist bloggers need access to proxy websites with online security to evade government suppression.

But Faris said circumvention technology is only a short-term solution. "This is a political problem that needs a political solution," Faris said. Attacking Internet censorship, added Mahoney, requires an international commitment.

(Continued on page 10)

Page 8 Weekly Special Report

Obama Calls Arizona Immigration Law "Poorly Conceived"

By Stephen Kaufman **Staff Writer**

Washington — President Obama and senior members of his administration have criticized a new law by the state of Arizona that requires police to check those suspected of being illegal immigrants for immigration paperwork. They say the Arizona law highlights the need for the U.S. Congress to enact comprehensive and common sense immigration reform.

Speaking at a town hall meeting in Iowa April 27, Obama said the law, which may come into effect in Arizona in July, is "a poorly conceived law," and that its potential for profiling or harassing Hispanic Americans for their documentation is "not the right way to go."

The president acknowledged that while his administration has made "significant progress" in securing U.S. borders to prevent illegal immigration, "[t]he system is broken" and a comprehensive approach through federal legislation is needed to hold illegal immigrants responsible for breaking U.S. laws while also offering them a pathway to obtaining U.S. citizenship.

The legislation should also crack down on U.S. companies that are hiring illegal immigrants, he said.

"We can try to build as many fences as we want at the border, but the fact is if folks are making \$2 a day back home, and they can make \$10 an hour here, they're going to come here — unless we make sure that employers are doing what's lawful," the president said.

Obama said there are currently 11 million to 12 million illegal immigrants in the U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder de-United States, and he urged Democrats and Republicans in Congress to pass a law that would require them to register and learn the English language, and



Many Americans are protesting Arizona's law and calling for a boycott of the state, as well as filing legal challenges.

would impose fines for their illegal entry. But such am law also should provide them with an opportunity eventually to gain citizenship, he said.

"If we have that kind of comprehensive approach, then we can once again be a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants," the president said.

Along with requiring police to check suspects for their paperwork, the Arizona law also places restrictions on soliciting and hiring day laborers off the street. It also allows Arizonans to utilize the state's legal system to force local authorities to uphold the law.

scribed the law as "unfortunate" and "subject to potential abuse." Speaking in Washington April 27, he said the U.S. Department of Justice is now reviewing

the law and is "considering all possibilities, including the possibility of a court challenge" in response.

"I'm very concerned about the wedge that it could draw between communities that law enforcement is supposed to serve and those of us in law enforcement," Holder said.

In reaction to the law, nonprofit organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and the **National Immigration** Law Center announced April 28 that they plan

to challenge the measure in U.S. courts. According to news reports, additional civil challenges are expected. There have also been protests against the measure across the United States and some Americans have called on tourists to avoid visiting Arizona and for consumers to boycott companies that are based there.

Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano told U.S. senators April 27 that the Obama administration is also concerned from a law enforcement perspective, fearing that as officials are asked to focus their efforts on detaining all illegal immigrants, they will be less able to devote time and resources toward more egregious criminals such as felons and gang members.

"Constitutional or not, there are some (Continued on page 10)

Weekly Special Report Page

Infrastructure Transformation in Africa an Urgent Priority . . .

(Continued from page 5)

Looking at transportation, Sierra acknowledged that air transport has expanded in eastern and southern Africa but remains "cumbersome and declining" in west and central Africa. Safety also remains an issue, she added.

On ports, the volume of cargo is growing and has more than tripled in the past decade. That is an "early marker" for growth across the continent, she said. But she warned that containerization is still low and inland transportation linkages are weak. As with water resources, the need is for regional solutions. "We need to focus on regional hubs and the efficient trans-shipment around the coast and inland linkages," she said.

Sierra said the significance of the railway

sector has fallen over the past 30 years, in part due to poor maintenance and other adverse economic and infrastructure factors. And she cited the desperate need for more roads to facilitate agricultural productivity in Africa. But she cautioned that road maintenance is an issue: every dollar of delayed road maintenance ends up costing four dollars to restore the existing road, she explained.

On water, Sierra said African countries have failed to harness water for development and water storage facilities and dams — needed to mitigate floods and droughts — are inadequate. "Today, only 5 percent of Africa's land is irrigated," she said.

One sector where Africa has made great progress is telecommunications, Sierra said. In 1999, only 5 percent of Africa's

population lived within range of a mobile phone signal. Now, that number is 60 percent, she said. That saturation percentage could be expanded to 90 percent through deregulation and greater competition, she added.

Sierra said studies show that a \$93 billion investment is needed annually in Africa's infrastructure, but currently, only \$45 billion is being invested each year. Closing this gap, through additional funding and through increased efficiencies, is an urgent challenge.

The CCA conference on "Building Dynamic Growth in Africa" is focusing on key sectors of African infrastructure that present investment opportunities. The conference will also address the issue of mitigating the effects of climate change in Africa. ◆

Online Journalists Increasingly Risk Censorship . . .

(Continued from page 8)

The Obama administration, for its part, is reinvigorating the Global Internet Freedom Task Force as a forum for addressing threats to Internet freedom around the world. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, in a major speech delivered in January, said the United States is urging U.S. media companies to take a proactive role in challenging foreign governments' demands for censorship and surveillance.

"The private sector has a shared responsibility to help safeguard free expression," Clinton said. "And when their business dealings threaten to undermine this freedom, they need to consider what's right, not simply what's a quick profit."

Clinton also said the Obama administration is "encouraged" by the work currently being done by the Global Network Initiative (http://

www.globalnetworkinitiative.org/), which is a voluntary effort by technology companies — along with nongovernmental organizations, academic experts and social investment funds — to respond to government requests for censorship. As a part of the U.S. government commitment to support responsible private-sector engagement on information freedom, the State Department held a high-level meeting in February to bring together companies that provide network services for talks about Internet freedom.

Learn more:

Internet Freedom (http://www.america.gov/internet-freedom.html)

Global Network Initiative (http://www.globalnetworkinitiative.org/) ◆

Obama Calls Arizona Immigration Law ...

(Continued from page 9)

real law enforcement reasons why laws like that are misguided," Napolitano told the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Enforcement of the measure also creates an "undue barrier" between officials and crime victims, such as the victims of human trafficking, she said.

But Napolitano said Arizonan officials were motivated partly by their frustration over the lack of action by Congress on the immigration issue and she urged lawmakers to pass comprehensive reform legislation.

"The message sent from Arizona was that movement needs to occur, that this issue should not be allowed to languish," she said. ◆

Page 10 Weekly Special Report

New U.S. Support for Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones and Energy Use

By Stephen Kaufman **Staff Writer**

Washington — Countries gathered at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference must decide if the 21st century will be a time that sees the continued spread of nuclear weapons or a period that helps realize the vision of a world without them, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said May 3.

Speaking at the United Nations at the start of the month-long conference, Clinton said the United States "will do its part" to fulfill its obligations under the NPT and is taking concrete steps both toward nuclear disarmament and to help other countries access the benefits of peaceful nuclear energy.

The secretary announced that the Obama administration is calling on the U.S. Senate to ratify protocols for U.S. participation in and support for nuclear weapons-free zones that have been established by treaties in Africa and the South Pacific.

"Upon ratification, parties to those agreements will have a legally binding assurance that the United States will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against them and will fully respect the nuclear weapons-free status of the zones," Clinton said.

Although the United States is not eligible to be a party to either treaty, it can join the treaty protocols that are open to it and other nuclear-armed states. Under those protocols, the United States pledges not to test nuclear weapons within the weapons-free zones, and offers legally binding assurances that it will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against treaty signatories.

The United States has observed a moratorium on nuclear testing since 1992, and in Central and Southeast Asia to reach an



The newly announced \$50 million in funds will support the IAEA's "peaceful uses initiative," Secretary Clinton said.

has no plans to resume, U.S. officials said in April. Under its revised Nuclear Posture Review (http://www.america.gov/ st/peacesec-english/2010/ April/20100406143409dmslahrellek0.65 8642.html), the Obama administration committed April 6 not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against nonnuclear states that comply with the NPT.

According to a May 3 State Department

fact sheet (http://www.america.gov/st/ texttrans-english/2010/ May/20100503154547xjsnommis0.5727 503.html), the United States signed the protocols for the Treaty of Pelindaba and the Treaty of Rarotonga, which established the nuclear weapons free-zones in, respectively, Africa and the South Pacific in 1996. It had previously signed and ratified the protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which established a nuclear weapon-free zone in Latin America and the Caribbean, the fact sheet said.

Clinton said the Obama administration is also prepared to consult with countries

agreement to seek ratification for protocols to establish those regions as nuclear weapons-free zones. The United States is also "prepared to support practical measures" that will help achieve a similar objective for the Middle East, which Clinton said "may present the greatest threat of nuclear proliferation in the world today."

To honor its commitments under the NPT to move toward nuclear disarmament, the United States is taking "irreversible, transparent, verifiable steps to reduce the number of the nuclear weapons in our arsenal," she said.

She announced that for the first time the United States is making public the number of weapons in its nuclear stockpile, as well as the number of weapons it has dismantled since 1991.

"For those who doubt that the United States will do its part on disarmament, this is our record, these are our commitments. And they send a clear, unmistakable signal," she said.

MORE U.S. SUPPORT FOR PEACEFUL **NUCLEAR POWER**

Clinton also announced that the United States is boosting its unequivocal support for NPT-compliant states to have access to peaceful nuclear energy by contributing \$50 million over the next five years to the new "Peaceful Uses Initiative" of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). She said the initiative will "improve health care and nutrition, manage water resources, increase food security and help countries develop the infrastructure for the safe and secure use of nuclear power."

The secretary said that over the past 10 years, the United States has been the largest contributor to the IAEA's techni-

(Continued on page 20)

Page 11 Weekly Special Report

U.S. Charges 11 Somalis with Maritime Piracy

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr. Staff Writer

Washington — "Since the earliest days of this country, piracy has been a serious crime," U.S. Attorney Neil MacBride said at an April 23 press conference in Norfolk, Virginia, where 11 Somali men are being held for trial in a federal court on charges of piracy in the Gulf of Aden.

Piracy on the world's seas threatens human lives and disrupts international commerce, MacBride said, and those who commit acts of piracy will be brought to justice.

Federal grand juries in Norfolk returned indictments against the 11 men from Somalia for maritime piracy in sea lanes in the Gulf of Aden off the Somali coast, according to MacBride's office. The men had been arrested and turned over to federal authorities in Norfolk by the U.S. Navy, which took them into custody following attacks in late March and early April.

"When pirates attack U.S. vessels by force, they must face severe consequences," McBride said.

In two separate incidents, the men attacked two U.S. Navy warships, the Nicholas and the Ashland, thinking they were attacking merchant ships. Both ships are home ported in the Norfolk area, and were participating in international counter piracy efforts. Maritime piracy has become a significant criminal activity and threat to maritime safety off the Horn of Africa. Piracy there also threatens the flow of humanitarian aid and global commerce in one of the world's busiest shipping corridors.

The United States is partnering with the shipping industry and more than 50 nations and international organizations through the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia to carry out Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's



In this drawing of the court proceedings, a U.S. attorney presents charges against 11 men from Somalia indicted for maritime piracy.

vision of "a 21st-century solution to this 17th-century crime." This unique international partnership is contributing toward the decreasing successes of pirate attacks, most notably through a multinational naval patrol of more than 20 countries, including the United States, China, India and Russia, as well as NATO and European Union partners.

According to the first indictment, five men — Mohammed Modin Hasan, Gabul Abdullahi Ali, Abdi Wali Dire, Abdi Mohammed Gurewardher and Abdi Mohammed Umar — left Somalia in search of a merchant ship to pirate. They allegedly used two small vessels loaded with assault weapons and a rocket-propelled grenade. The small vessels served as attack boats and were accompanied by a larger vessel carrying supplies.

On March 31, three of the men — Hasan, Ali and Dire — boarded one of the smaller boats and set out to plunder what they thought was a merchant ship, but which turned out to be the USS Nicholas, a guided missile frigate, according to the federal indictment. The three men attacked the ship with their weapons, and the other two men remained on the larger ship during the attack. In a second five-count indictment, six men — Maxamad Cali Saciid, Mohammed Abdi Jama, Jaamac Ciidle, Abdicasiis Cabaase, Abdirasaq Abshir and Mahamed

Farraah Hassan — were charged with piracy involving the USS Ashland on April 10 in waters off Djibouti.

All 11 men were charged with piracy, which carries a mandatory penalty of life in prison in a federal court. The attacks were investigated by FBI agents from field offices in New York and Norfolk, and by the Norfolk field office of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. Prosecution of the 11 men will be handled by the U.S. Attorney's Office in Norfolk.

PATROLS THWART PIRATE ATTACKS

Because of continuing international naval patrols, pirate attacks around the world dropped by 34 per cent in the first quarter of 2010 compared with a year ago, according to a report published April 21 by the nonprofit International Maritime Bureau. The bureau cited a significant decline in attacks in the Gulf of Aden off the east coast of Somalia, where NATO ships and others patrol.

In this area alone, 17 incidents were recorded in the first three months of 2010 compared with 41 in the same period last year. Somali pirates are now expanding their reach from the Gulf of Aden to the coasts of Kenya, Tanzania, the Seychelles, Madagascar and Oman. Somali pirates carried out 35 of the 67 hijackings recorded so far in 2010.

Approximately 20,000 cargo ships a year sail to and from Egypt's Suez Canal carrying one-tenth of world trade off Somalia's east coast and the Gulf of Aden.

A statement on the arrests and indictments can be obtained from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia. Federal court documents and information can be found on the District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia (http://www.vaed.uscourts.gov/) website. •

Page 12 Weekly Special Report

Clinton To Entrepreneurs: Build Up Your Societies

By Andrezj Zwaniecki Staff Writer

Washington — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is telling entrepreneurs from around the world to become agents of change in their countries.

Speaking to delegates at the closing of the Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship April 27, Clinton said that entrepreneurs not only can contribute to economic development and job creation, but also can "promote shared prosperity, call for open and accountable governance, [and] help expand access to services like healthcare and education."

"These are the pillars of stable, thriving societies," Clinton said. "And you are the people with the talent and opportunity to help build them."

The secretary said that engaging through entrepreneurship can benefit every country — including the United States — by forging closer trade, education, and science and technology ties and by increasing cooperation on global challenges like hunger, poverty or climate change.

"Relations between nations are sustained by the connections between their peoples. And so we are all stronger for your time together here," Clinton told delegates, who have discussed issues, networked and learned at the two-day summit and at 30 events following it.

The secretary said that entrepreneurs can count on the United States to be their partner as the Obama administration pursues a new approach to foreign policy based on shared values, mutual respect and mutual responsibility.

She said the new direction is based on investment rather than aid, and on sup-



Secretary of State Hillary Clinton shakes hands with delegates, following her remarks at the Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship.

porting local leadership and ideas.

"We believe that this approach is more likely to yield lasting results in the form of greater security, dignity, prosperity, and opportunity for more people worldwide," Clinton said.

She called on other governments to help facilitate this progress by creating environments that nurture entrepreneurship and by making the reforms needed to tap the energy and creativity inherent in it.

The Obama administration has announced a host of new private-public partnerships designed to help entrepreneurs, especially those in Muslimmajority countries, to hone their skills and gain access to resources. The partnerships include an innovative online mentoring project designed to help entrepreneurs around the world find expert mentors. The day after the summit at a meeting with women delegates, the secretary herself launched several new initiatives aimed at women entrepreneurs.

At the summit several business leaders said the lack of an entrepreneurship cul-

ture and a related fear of failure discourage business formation and private initiative in some countries. Fadi Ghandour, head of Aramex, a transportation and shipping company and the first Arabbased firm to be listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange, said the only way to overcome this is to teach entrepreneurship in schools. Talent is not innate, he said, it is learned and can be taught.

Ghandour said that the oilrich countries that spend billions of dollars to extract their mineral wealth now need a massive investment

"to develop the human mind."

"The brain is the only renewable energy that we have," he added.

Ghandour said successful entrepreneurs need to "bully governments" to get this done.

For more information, see fact sheets on new exchange programs (http:// www.america.gov/st/texttransenglish/2010/

April/20100427120400eaifas0.3844568.h tml), a new E-Mentor Corps (http://www.america.gov/st/texttransenglish/2010/

April/20100427120950eaifas0.2072369.h tml), conference follow-on activities (http://www.america.gov/st/texttransenglish/2010/

April/20100427133204eaifas0.8279688.h tml), and partner group activities in conjunction with the summit (http://www.america.gov/st/texttransenglish/2010/

April/20100427134959xjsnommis0.9608 118.html).

Special correspondent Chris Connell contributed to this article. ◆

Page 13 Weekly Special Report

Clinton Outlines Steps to Support Opportunities for Women

By Susan Domowitz Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told women entrepreneurs from around the world that they are essential partners in global efforts to increase peace, prosperity, stability and security.

"We need each and every one of you to lend your entrepreneurial skill and energy to meeting the global challenges of this new century," she said.

Clinton, speaking at an April 28 breakfast in Washington (http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2010/

April/20100428160619eaifas0.2646405.h tml) for women entrepreneurs who participated in the two-day Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship (http://www.america.gov/

entrepreneurship_summit.html) April 26 –27, said talent is universal but opportunity is not, and assured them the United States will be a partner in "trying to pry open those doors of opportunity."

Clinton outlined four initiatives to expand opportunities for women, so "more women can turn their entrepreneurial dreams and innovations into successful businesses that generate income for themselves and their families, create jobs, expand markets and fuel progress in their communities."

First, through a program called Tech Women, promising women entrepreneurs in technology fields in seven Muslim-majority countries will be paired with American mentors and given four to six weeks of training in American technology centers like Silicon Valley in California.

Second, the United States will work with Japan, the 2010 chair of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, to



Secretary Clinton talks to global women entrepreneurs at a breakfast April 28,

organize an APEC women's entrepreneurship summit in the fall of 2010 in Japan. That summit will focus on policy, human resources and financing issues.

Third, the Secretary's International Fund for Women and Girls is a new public-private partnership aimed at providing high-impact grants to nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working to advance the economic, social and political progress of women.

"The women's fund will bring together the resources and expertise of both the public and the private sectors to invest in effective and innovative solutions for issues like economic empowerment, climate change, combating violence against women, and improved access to education and health care," Clinton said.

The fourth initiative is the Secretary's Innovation Award for the Empowerment of Women and Girls. The award, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, will recognize pioneering approaches to empower women politically, economically and socially around the world. The first

two recipients each will receive a grant of up to \$500,000 to implement programs that can improve the lives of women and girls, and that can be expanded to be applied more broadly.

As an example, Clinton recollected "being in Senegal and going out into the country to see a new kind of well that made it possible for women to get water in their own village instead of having to walk for hours. We're working on a cookstove project so that we can provide safe and effective cook stoves for women so they don't have to travel for miles to get trees and branches and look for scrub to light their stoves to feed their families."

Clinton introduced Rockefeller Foundation President Judith Rodin, who said that identifying innovation, expanding that innovation, and applying it to seemingly intractable problems has proven to be very effective.

"We all know the facts," Rodin said.
"Women still do two-thirds of the work in the world but only earn 5 percent of

(Continued on page 19)

Page 14 Weekly Special Report

Business Owners from 50 Countries Connect in Washington

By Katherine Lewis and Christopher Connell Special Correspondents

Washington — Kabilan Kandasamy of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, arrived at the Reagan Center in Washington in the early morning April 26 with a list of four editors whom he wanted to meet. He runs an online news site called Free Malaysia Today and knew he could "learn from certain things that they are doing."

Kandasamy had studied the biographies of 250 entrepreneurs who, like him, had been invited by President Obama to come to Washington April 26–27 for the Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship.

The summit's participants were, for the most part, from countries with sizeable Muslim populations. As part of what Obama terms a "new beginning" toward deepening ties with Muslim businesspeople, the president invited them to meet with American business leaders and government officials.

Muhammad Yunus, founder of Grameen Bank and a Nobel laureate, was there. Yunus, the father of microfinance, said the summit offered more than a chance to deepen ties between Americans and the Muslim world. He predicted it would also help relationships among Muslims. "They'll be shaking hands and talking to each other and sending e-mails back and forth. Lots of things can happen right here. They learn from each other and inspire each other," Yunus said.

Indeed, over breakfast, discussion was animated. Delegates from Africa and Afghanistan, who had just met, debated whether it is more important for women to be educated or financially independent.



Alamine Ousmane Mey (Cameroon), Muhammad Yunus (Bangladesh) and Dilek Ayhan (Norway), left to right, at the entrepreneurship summit.

"If the woman has some money, she has a voice. She will be empowered," said Omowale Ogunrinde from Nigeria.

"Education is everything," said Yacoobi Sakema of Afghanistan. "You can have money, but money will be taken away from you if you don't think. You have to have education — I am sorry."

At the summit's first session, entrepreneur Tri Mumpuni stole the show. She described bringing reliable electricity to poor villages across Indonesia. "It really touches your heart when you come to a very remote village and you see the kids very tired at night, trying to read their books [by] a very small light," she said.

Mumpuni — with whom President Obama chatted in the Indonesian language after his speech April 26 — and her husband were kidnapped by gunmen in 2008 in one of the remote villages where she works to harness hydroelectric power. They had to be ransomed.

Mumpuni said she forgave her kidnappers, but also left them with a lesson. With the same skills they used to make weapons, she told them, they could build turbines to generate electricity, and making turbines "is more useful for your village."

Mumpuni falls into a category of entrepreneurs who work to do social good as much as earn profits; these "social entrepreneurs" were well represented at the summit. But it takes more than social entrepreneurism to move a country from poverty to prosperity, said Mohamed Ibrahim, who built a mobile technology enterprise in Africa and sold his company, Celtel International, to MTC Kuwait in 2005 for \$3.4 billion. "Look, frankly, social entrepreneurship is a very romantic concept," he said, "but I don't think a country can really be built by social entrepreneurs."

Yahoo Chief Executive Jerry Yang said that for economies to grow, governments need to support research and development.



Tri Mumpuni, an Indonesian entrepreneur, inspired delegates with her story of bringing electricity to villages in her country.

Palestinian Waed al Taweel, an undergraduate at Birzeit University in Ramallah, collected fistfuls of business cards. She hopes to open a recreation center in the West Bank. "Despite all the challenges we are facing inside the Palestinian Territories, we can make a change and work to develop our country," she said. The president of Babson College gave her a full scholarship at the summit to pursue a master's degree in business administration. "My parents are amazed," she said.

(Continued on page 20)

Page 15 Weekly Special Report

U.S. Dancers Are a Hit in Africa

By Lauren Monsen Staff Writer

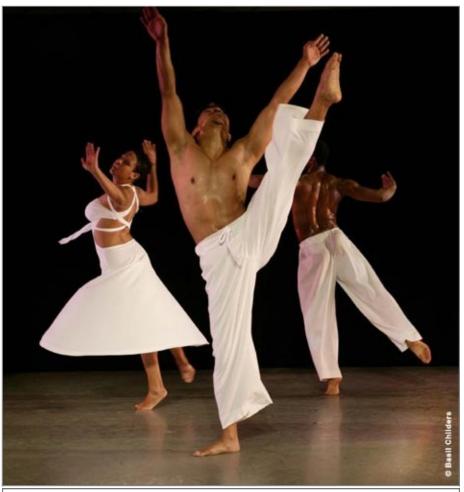
Washington — When members of the New York-based dance company Evidence traveled to Africa recently to serve as cultural ambassadors under the U.S. State Department's DanceMotion U.S.A. program, they were excited but didn't know quite what to expect, says Ronald K. Brown, the company's founder and artistic director.

Flying off to Africa in late February, "I was looking forward to meeting the artists" in all three countries on the tour's itinerary, "but I was not prepared for how amazing it was going to be," Brown said. "The enthusiasm and generosity of the people we met there was far beyond anything I'd imagined."

Brown and his dancers traveled to Senegal, Nigeria and South Africa, where they were introduced to their African counterparts and other local residents. During the monthlong trip, the troupe held master classes and workshops, teaching local youngsters the fundamentals of modern dance while exchanging techniques with in-country artists. They gave public performances and answered questions from spectators, forging connections with people of all ages.

Evidence is known for weaving African elements into its routines, creating a fusion of contemporary and traditional dance moves. That concept surprised many of the African dancers who attended the troupe's classes and performances, Brown said. In Senegal and Nigeria, the local students had their own ideas about American-style dance, "and they wanted to know if we were going to teach tap dance," Brown said. "They asked us: 'Do you tap dance? Do you break dance?""

Instead, the American dancers performed choreographed pieces that



Members of the Evidence dance company perform "Grace," one of their signature works, before a live audience.

evoked their own African roots, as well as their classical and modern training. "In Nigeria, the response was: 'You're showing us our material. We recognize all of that," Brown said. "Many of the young local dancers hadn't thought to incorporate African dance moves into contemporary dance," but they were receptive to the idea.

Before each performance, Evidence dancers "offered up a Yoruba prayer in front of the audience," Brown said. "It was prayer, spoken word and poetry, with recorded music." Audiences responded warmly, and "we got many responses on our Facebook page too," Brown said. "Because we've always tried to reflect our African influences, I think

people felt, 'A lot of this is familiar."

The dancers themselves were welcomed by music at one of their destinations, and according to Brown, it was one of the most moving experiences of their trip to Africa. Arriving at the township of Joza, in South Africa, "we got out of the van, and there were young people, about 16 years old, in school uniforms, singing," Brown said. "They greeted us, came in [to the local arts center] and performed for us."

While visiting Joza, Evidence dancers worked with people from the township and surrounding areas. Everywhere they went, Brown said, people were eager to

(Continued on page 17)

Page 16 Weekly Special Report

U.S. Dancers Are a Hit in Africa . . .

(Continued from page 16)

communicate through art. "One local dancer did improvisation in a Western dance style," he said. Local children demonstrated a gumboot dance, using their hands and feet to create polyrhythms.

Evidence dancer Clarice Young, who contributed to the DanceMotion U.S.A. blog (http://dmusa.blogspot.com/), wrote that the gumboot dance is used by African-American college fraternities and sororities "as a base for their form of 'stepping." She added: "I got to see first-hand where something that's so popular in the [United] States ... originated."

In each country, "it was definitely a two-way exchange" between the African hosts and their American guests, Brown said. In Senegal, a local dance company taught Evidence members to dance in sand, and introduced the Americans to a new rhythm called the Obama, named for the current U.S. president. Nigerian students showed the Americans some movements from traditional Nigerian dances, and in Durban, South Africa, Evidence dancers learned traditional Zulu dances and songs.

The dancers also enjoyed meeting legendary Senegalese musician Youssou N'Dour at his nightclub in Dakar, and paused for a day of wildlife sightseeing in South Africa, where they observed elephants, giraffes, lions and cheetahs in



Onstage in Grahamstown, South Africa, Evidence dancers answer questions from the audience after a performance.

their natural habitat, and at thrillingly close range — but from the safety of a jeep.

Brown said he has been invited to return to Senegal, Nigeria and South Africa to teach classes, and is encouraging his new African friends to visit the United States for further exchanges.

When he and his dancers perform, Brown said, "we're trying to tell stories, and to emphasize that dance and theater belongs to people of all sizes, not just people with stereotypical dancers' bodies." The mission of his dance company "is to say something about collective and individual responsibility, accountability to others, and lifting our culture up."

If he were to advise other dancers about to embark on a DanceMotion U.S.A. tour, he said, "I would definitely tell them to be open to the experience. It's all about the people you encounter. We had a wonderful time, and I don't think we've even fully digested the experience yet."

AllAfrica Founder Cites Explosion of Independent Media in Africa . . .

(Continued from page 6) whose board Chinje sits.

Established in 2009 as a collaborative effort to unite and advocate for African journalists, AMI's CEO, Amadou Mahtar Ba, who also participated on the CIMA/ NED panel, helped organize the first Pan African Media Conference held in Nairobi

March 18-19.

He said AMI's goal was to work "as a catalyst for transformational change within the continent's media sector" and become "a powerful advocate among key regional institutions, development partners, funders and civil society groups that recognize the critical role media

play in governance and development across the continent."

Over a 10-year period, Ba said, "AMI will help create and support lasting African media institutions committed to the public interest and operating with the highest standards of ethics." •

Page 17 Weekly Special Report

A Nation Mourns Human Rights Champion Dorothy Height

Washington — Dorothy Height, known as the godmother of the American civil rights movement, dedicated her life to securing equal rights and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race or gender.

That life was celebrated in a series of memorial services that culminated in a funeral at Washington's National Cathedral (http://www.america.gov/st/washfile-english/2007/Septem-

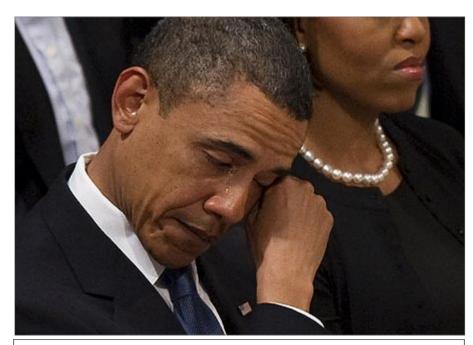
ber/20070906130622GLnesnoM0.67205 45.html), with a eulogy (http:// www.america.gov/st/texttransenglish/2010/

April/20100430121907eaifas6.954372e-03.html) from America's first African-American president.

President Obama reminded those attending — religious and secular leaders, Height's family and friends, and 700 admirers from the general public who began lining up for the coveted tickets before dawn — that Height's contributions stretched beyond equal rights for African Americans and extended past U.S. borders.

"[W]e remember her not solely for all she did during the civil rights movement," Obama said. "We remember her for all she did over a lifetime, behind the scenes, to broaden the movement's reach, to shine a light on stable families and tight-knit communities. To make us see the drive for civil rights and women's rights not as a separate struggle, but as part of a larger movement to secure the rights of all humanity, regardless of gender, regardless of race, regardless of ethnicity."

Height championed that movement at an early age, in a time and a place that tended to stifle the voices of those who were young, or black or female. Yet somehow a young black woman found ways to make herself heard, and not just in the United States.



Tears streaming, President Barack Obama could not contain his emotions yesterday as he gave a 13-minute eulogy to the "godmother of the American civil rights movement".

CITIZEN OF WORLD

In 1937, Height organized the United Christian Youth Movement of North America and served as its vice president, a post that led to her inclusion in the 10-member American youth delegation to the Oxford, England, World Conference on Life and Work.

That experience helped garner Height a 1938 invitation from first lady Eleanor Roosevelt to join a small group of young people planning and preparing for the upcoming World Youth Conference at Vassar College in New York's Hudson River Valley. Height would later assist Roosevelt as she drafted the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a 1948 document that preceded the U.S. Civil Rights Act by nearly two decades.

As the U.S. civil rights movement gained momentum in the 1950s, Height insisted on a voice in its leadership, but continued her international engagement and

her determination to move the women's rights agenda beyond the borders of the United States.

From 1947 to 1956, Height was the national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (DST), a private, nonprofit organization that describes itself as sisterhood of more than 200,000 women educated at predominantly black universities who are dedicated to helping local communities throughout the world. The organization now has more than 900 chapters in the United States, Great Britain, Japan, Germany, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas and the Republic of Korea.

In 1948, while attending a meeting of the Congress of Women in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Height established a DST chapter there, the first outside the United States. Under Height's leadership, DST funded a maternity ward in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1955. Height taught in 1952 at the University of Delhi, India, in the Delhi School

(Continued on page 19)

Page 18 Weekly Special Report

A Nation Mourns Human Rights Champion Dorothy Height . . .

(Continued from page 18)

of Social Work founded by the YWCAs of India, Burma and Ceylon. In South Asia, she built a reputation for internationalism and humanitarianism, and traveled extensively to study and expand the work of the YWCA.

In 1958, she was one of a 35-member delegation to the Town Meeting of the World, a special people-to-people mission to five Latin American countries, and then went on to study the training needs of women's organizations in five West African countries (Liberia, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Nigeria).

"As the longtime head of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), Dr. Height's tireless effort to work for women's rights worldwide is apparent in many African nations," according to the TransAfrica Forum, a Washington-based nongovernmental organization that aims to foster a closer alliance among the African diaspora through activities that promote political awareness and involvement in foreign affairs.

Calling her "one of the African World's most noted liberators," the organization praised Height for standing "on the front lines ... to fight apartheid in South Africa and human injustice in Haiti" and support Nigerians' fight against the military



Dorothy Height

regime of Sani Abacha.

In 1975, Height participated in the Tribunal at the International Women's Year Conference of the United Nations in Mexico City, where a grant by the U.S. Agency for International Development allowed the NCNW to host a conference within the conference for women from the Americas and the Caribbean. Following that meeting, 50 conference attendees accepted an NCNW invitation to visit women in rural Mississippi to share their stories and experiences.

The U.S. Information Agency supported a 1977 lecture tour by Height to South

Africa, a trip she began by addressing the National Convention of the Black Women's Federation of South Africa near Johannesburg. Nearly a quarter century later, at an age when most people would struggle with a trip to the local market, Height was again in Africa, this time in Durban, South Africa, for the 2001 U.N. Summit on Racism.

Height's own words emphasize her legacy does not belong to one race, one gender or one nation.

"I want to be remembered as someone who used herself and anything she could touch to work for justice and freedom," she said. "I want to be remembered as someone who tried."

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: http://www.america.gov) ♦

Clinton Outlines Steps to Support Opportunities for Women...

(Continued from page 14)

the income. They harvest 90 percent of the world's food, yet they own only 1 percent of the world's land. And women are three times as likely as men to work in informal economies. And therefore abuse and sex trafficking and the absence of legal rights and protections for women are still unacceptably commonplace in so many places around the world. We must do more and we must do more with greater urgency to em-

power women. And we believe that a focus on scalable innovation can and will make a difference."

Clinton urged her audience to return to their home countries with a renewed sense of commitment and optimism.

"I hope you will carry with you ... a commitment to use your skill and energy to contribute to the growth and progress of your families, your communities and

your countries because ... I really believe that, together as women, we can and will help create a stronger, more stable, more secure, more prosperous, more peaceful world for ourselves and our children."

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: http://www.america.gov) ◆

Page 19 Weekly Special Report

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION AMERICAN EMBASSY

P.O.Box 1014 Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Phone: 251-11-5174007 251-11-5174000 Fax: 251-11-1242454 Email: pasaddis@state.gov



See also

http://www.america.gov/

Telling America's story

New U.S. Support for Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones...

(Continued from page 11)

cal cooperation fund, providing it with nearly \$200 million. The fund has helped more than 100 countries develop or expand peaceful nuclear energy uses, she said.

IAEA Director-General Yukiya Amano told the NPT Review Conference May 3 that his organization is now implementing technical cooperation projects in more than 120 countries and territories and urged more international support to achieve "sufficient, assured and predictable funding of technical cooperation."

He said more than 60 countries are considering introducing nuclear power to generate electricity, and that between 10 and 25 new countries are expected to bring their first nuclear power plants online by 2030.

"Nuclear technology provides a unique tool to meet the basic needs of human beings," Amano said. Nuclear medicine and radiotherapy can be used to diagnose and treat cancer, and nuclear technology can be used to enhance global food security by contributing to plant breeding, food irradiation, animal health and pest control, as well as water management and environmental monitoring, he said.

The IAEA can help interested countries to establish a reliable nuclear infrastructure, but any expansion in nuclear power "must be done safely and securely and without increasing the proliferation risk," Amano said.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: http:// www.america.gov) ♦

Business Owners from 50 Countries Connect in Washington...

(Continued from page 15)

The hallways outside the summit's meeting rooms were filled with chatter about ideas, in part because of the diversity of the entrepreneurs, who came from countries both rich and poor. Their businesses range from managing rickshaws to making automobiles. They run banks in London and Internet cafés that cater to the blind in Libya.

"I didn't know before there were such a lot of women leaders from different Arabic countries. I knew maybe some of them were dealing with crafts businesses, but I didn't know they also lead big companies," said Mirlinda Kusari-Purrini, director of the Women's Business Association in Kosovo.

Nuriya S. Farah, who is from Kenya where she runs a trucking business and a nonprofit organization to help girls

and women, said: "Before this summit, I networks for banks in The Gambia, met didn't know what a business incubator was. Now I do." Roshaneh Zafar, who runs a microfinance organization in Pakistan, was taken by the idea of how an incubator — which allows small businesses to share space, resources and mentors — might help women stick to their businesses rather than close shop when family responsibilities overwhelm them.

Ogunrinde, who runs a vocational training center in Lagos, Nigeria, had a chance conversation with Martin Burt, of Paraguay, and learned of a program to teach entrepreneurship in elementary schools that she hopes to imitate.

Papa Yusupha Njie (http:// www.america.gov/st/businessenglish/2010/ April/20100402184605cpataruk0.96888 37.html), who develops mobile phone

bankers from M&T Bank of New York. "You never want to say anything until you sign on the dotted line," he said, "but over the next few weeks, I am sure there are going to be a few e-mails to close what we have been talking about."

As the summit wound down, Fatima Aliko of Nigeria said, "I knew the world was big. I didn't know it was this big. There are so many different ideas, so many different things happening around the globe. That's what strikes me."

Staff writers Phillip Kurata and Charles Corey contributed to this article.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: http:// www.america.gov) ♦

Page 20 Weekly Special Report